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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

**[ATSDR-271]**

**Notice Of The Revised Priority List Of Hazardous Substances  
That Will Be The Subject Of Toxicological Profiles**

**AGENCY:** Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
(ATSDR), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), requires that ATSDR and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepare a Priority List of Hazardous Substances commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List (NPL). The Priority List of Hazardous Substances includes substances that have been determined to be of greatest public health concern to persons at or near NPL sites. CERCLA as amended also requires that the Priority List of Hazardous Substances be revised periodically.

This announcement provides notice that a revised Priority List of 275 Hazardous Substances has been developed and is now available for download. CERCLA as amended also requires ATSDR to prepare and to periodically revise toxicological profiles on hazardous substances included in the priority list. Thus, each priority list substance is a potential toxicological profile subject, as well as a candidate for identification of priority data needs.

In addition to the Priority List of Hazardous Substances, ATSDR has developed a Completed Exposure Pathway Site Count Report. This report lists the number of sites or events at which ATSDR is involved and wherein a substance has been found in a completed exposure pathway (CEP).

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for a printed copy of the 2011 Priority List of Hazardous Substances That Will Be the Subject of Toxicological Profiles and Support Document, including the CEP report should be submitted to Ms. Nickolette Roney, Division of

Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, ATSDR, Mail Stop F-62,  
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30333.

**ELECTRONIC AVAILABILITY:** The 2011 Priority List of Hazardous Substances and Support Document is posted on ATSDR's Web site located at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/SPL](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/SPL). The CEP Report is also posted at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/CEP](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/CEP).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Nickolette Roney, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road N.E., Mail Stop F-62, Atlanta, GA 30333, telephone 800-232-4636, ET.

This is an informational notice only; no comments are solicited at this time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** CERCLA establishes certain requirements for ATSDR and EPA with regard to hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA NPL.

Section 104(i)(2)(A) of CERCLA, as amended,<sup>1</sup> requires that ATSDR and EPA prepare a list, in order of priority, of at least 100 hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the NPL and which, in the agencies' sole discretion, pose the most significant potential threats to human health (see also 52 FR 12866, April 17, 1987). CERCLA section 104 (i)(2)(B)<sup>2</sup> also requires the agencies to revise the priority list to include 100 or more additional hazardous substances (see also 53 FR 41280, October 20, 1988), and to include at least 25 additional hazardous substances in each of the three successive years following the 1988 revision (see 54 FR 43615, October 26, 1989; 55 FR 42067, October 17, 1990; and 56 FR 52166, October 17, 1991). CERCLA section 104(i)(2)(B) further requires ATSDR and EPA at least annually to revise the list to include any additional hazardous substances that have been determined to pose the most significant potential threat to human health.

In 1995, the agencies, recognizing the stability of this listing activity, altered the priority list publication schedule (60 FR

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<sup>1</sup> 42 USC §9604(i)(2)(A)

<sup>2</sup> 42 USC §9604(i)(2)(B)

16478, March 30, 1995). As a result, the substance priority list is now on a 2-year publication schedule, with annual informal review and revision. However, after the publication of the 2007 substance priority list, ATSDR transitioned to a new science database. This transition caused a delay in the publication of the revised priority list. Thus, the 2011 priority list is the first publication of the list since the 2007 priority list. Each substance on the Priority List of Hazardous Substances is a potential subject of a toxicological profile prepared by ATSDR and, subsequently, a candidate for the identification of priority data needs.

The ranking of substances on the priority list is based on an algorithm that consists of three criteria, weighted equally and combined to result in the total score. The three criteria are: (1) frequency of occurrence at NPL sites; (2) toxicity; and (3) potential for human exposure. The site-specific information used to develop the priority list has been collected from ATSDR public health assessments and from site-file data packages used to develop the public health assessments. Since the development of the 2007 substance priority list, additional site specific information has been collected. The new information may include

more recent NPL frequency-of-occurrence data, additional concentration data, and more information on exposure to substances at NPL sites. Using these additional data, seven substances have been replaced on the list of 275 substances since the 2007 publication; the replacement substances were previously under consideration. Changes in the order of substances appearing on the Priority List of Hazardous Substances will be reflected in program activities that rely on the list for future direction. Using the current algorithm, a total of 847 candidate substances have been analyzed and ranked. Of these candidates, the 275 substances on the priority list may in the future become the subject of toxicological profiles.

In two years ATSDR intends to publish the next revised list of hazardous substances, with an informal review and revision performed in one year. These revisions will reflect changes and improvements in data collection and availability. Additional information on the existing methodology used in the development of the Priority List of Hazardous Substances can be found in the Support Document and in the above-referenced Federal Register notices.

In addition to the revised priority list, ATSDR is also releasing a revised Completed Exposure Pathway Site Count Report. A completed exposure pathway (CEP) links a contaminant source to a receptor population. The CEP ranking is similar to a subcomponent of the substance priority list algorithm's potential-for-human-exposure component. The CEP ranking is based on a site frequency count and thus lists the number of sites at which a substance has been found in a CEP. This information is derived from ATSDR public health assessments and from health consultations. The CEP report therefore focuses on documented exposure, and lists hazardous substances according to exposure frequency.

The substances in the CEP report are similar to those in the Priority List of Hazardous Substances. However, some substances in the CEP report have a very low toxicity (e.g., sodium) and as a result are not included in the substance priority list. Since the substance priority list uses toxicity, frequency of occurrence, and potential for human exposure to determine its priority substances, other low-toxicity substances will not appear on the list and, consequently, will not become subjects of toxicological profiles.

In addition, because CERCLA mandates the preparation of the Priority List of Hazardous Substances, that list only incorporates data from CERCLA NPL sites. The CEP report, on the other hand, uses data from all ATSDR-activity sites at which a CEP has been detected.

Dated: October 28, 2011

Ken Rose

Director, Office of Policy



Planning and Evaluation  
National Center for Environmental Health/  
Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry

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